issue price of levy sugar are fixed by the Central Government. These prices are determined keeping in view the relevant legal provisions and aim at harmonising the interests of the farmers, industry and the consumers.

Suffer stock of wheat

1400. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) what is the target set for the buffer stock of wheat ;

(b) what were the stocks of foodgrains during the last six months ;

(c) the reasons for the dismal stock position in spite of good crop ; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the stock position ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) According to the Buffer Stocking Policy norms, the stocks of Wheat with the Public Agencies on different dates in a year should be as under :—

(Million Tonnes)

Date	Minimum Stocks
1st April	3.7
1st July	13.1
1st October	10.6
1st January	7.7

(b) The estimated stocks of foodgrains (Wheat, Rice and Coarsegrains) with the Public Agencies during the last six months were as under :—

(Million Tonnes)

Date	Stocks of foodgrains
1-11-1991	14.9
1-12-1991	14.6
1-1-1992	14.7
1-2-1992	14.5
1-3-1992	13.4
1-4-1992	12.1

(c) The stocks of Wheat and Rice with Public Agencies as on 1st April, 1992 were about 12.1 million tonnes as against the minimum level of 14.5 million tonnes prescribed under the Buffer Stocking Policy. The shortfall is mainly due to less procurement of Wheat and Rice during 1991-92 as compared to the procurement during 1990-91, higher allocation and offtake of Wheat and Rice for PDS during 1991-92 and open sale of Wheat by FCI to curb the price rise.

(d) In order to maximise procurement of wheat during the current marketing season, the Government have taken various steps like increase in the minimum support price to Rs. 250 per quintal in 1992-93 from Rs. 225 per quintal in 1991-92 grant of bonus of Rs. 25 per quintal to farmers giving their stocks to FCI and Government agencies during April and May, 1992, increase in number of purchase centres in major procuring States, reduction in stock-holding limits of Wheat and Rice by the wholesalers, retailers and Roller Flour Mills etc. It is also proposed to take effective measures during the coming kharif season to maximise the procurement of Paddy and Rice.

Procurement of wheat and rice

1401. SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA :

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of adequate quantity of foodgrains production in the country since last year Government agencies have not been able to purchase wheat and rice as per the fixed targets ;

(b) if so, what was the target fixed for the purchase of wheat and rice for the year 1991-92 and the target fixed for the same for the current year 1992-93;

(c) whether it is also a fact that according to the indications available so far

the prospects for achieving the target fixed for purchase of wheat and rice is bleak; and

(d) if so, whether Government are considering its procurement policy; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) : (a) to (c) The procurement of wheat, paddy and coarsegrains for Central Pool under price support scheme being completely on a voluntary basis and the procurement of rice is in the form of levy from millers being dependent on the quantum of paddy purchased by them, no targets, as such, can be fixed for procurement of foodgrains. In the current rabi marketing season of 1992-93, a quantity of 35.36 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured as on 4th May, 1992 as against 35.50 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period last year. In case of rice, a quantity of 96.15 lakh tonnes of rice has been procured till 4th May, 1992 as compared to 118.76 lakh tonnes procured in the corresponding period last year.

(d) To improve the rabi procurement of 1992-93 the Government of India have announced a bonus of Rs. 25 over and above the procurement price. Apart from this, administrative steps like opening adequate number of procurement centres, reducing stock limits and ensuring that transactions take place only in mandis, have been taken.

पंजाब में गेहूं की खरीद में गिरावट आना

1402. **सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :

क्या **खाद्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 14 अप्रैल, 1992 के "दी इकानामिक टाइम्स" में "व्हीट प्रोक्योरमेंट डिकलाइन इन पंजाब" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि इस वर्ष पंजाब राज्य से गेहूं की सरकारी खरीद में गत वर्षों की अपेक्षा कमी आने की संभावना है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इस भारी मात्रा में गेहूं उत्पादक राज्य के किसानों को लाभकारी मूल्य देकर पर्याप्त मात्रा में गेहूं खरीद पाने के लिए कोई विशेष उपाय करने पर विचार कर रही है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

खाद्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री तरुण गोगोई) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) भारतीय खाद्य निगम और राज्य की एजेंसियों ने वर्तमान रबी विपणन मौसम, 1992-93 में 4-5-1992 तक पंजाब में केन्द्रीय पूल के लिए 26.85 लाख मीटरी टन गेहूं की वसूली कर ली है जबकि पिछले वर्ष इसी अवधि में 23.23 लाख मीटरी टन गेहूं की वसूली की गई थी । चूंकि मूल्य समर्थन के अधीन गेहूं की वसूली पूर्णतया स्वैच्छिक आधार पर की जाती है, इसलिए पंजाब में गेहूं की वसूली की सम्भावित मात्रा के बारे में अन्दाजा लगाना वास्तव में सम्भव नहीं है क्योंकि वसूली कार्य अभी भी चल रहा है ।

(ग) और (घ) गेहूं के लिए 250 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल के न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य के अतिरिक्त सरकार ने भारतीय खाद्य निगम और उसकी एजेंसियों को पहली अप्रैल, 1992 से 31 मई, 1992 तक की अवधि के दौरान गेहूं बेचने के लिए किसानों को 25 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल की दर से बोनस देने की भी इजाजत दी है । पंजाब सरकार ने भी किसानों को 5 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल की दर से अतिरिक्त बोनस देने का फैसला किया है ।